



Application No. 09/804,

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
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Paper No. 8

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
William J. Swanson et al	:	DECISION DISMISSING
Application No. 09/804,401	:	PETITION
Filed: March 13, 2001	:	
Attorney Docket No. S697.12-0027	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed May 7, 2001, requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of February 27, 2001.

Petitioners allege that the application was deposited in Express Mail service on February 27, 2001, and, under 37 CFR 1.10, should be accorded that date as the filing date instead of the presently accorded filing date of March 13, 2001.

37 CFR 1.10(a) states that:

Any correspondence received by the Patent and Trademark Office (Office) that was delivered by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service (USPS) will be considered filed in the Office on the date of deposit with the USPS. The date of deposit with the USPS is shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation. If the USPS deposit date cannot be determined, the correspondence will be accorded the Office receipt date as the filing date. See § 1.6(a).

37 CFR 1.10(c) states that:

(c) Any person filing correspondence under this section that was received by the Office and delivered by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the USPS, who can show that there is a discrepancy between the filing date accorded by the Office to the correspondence and the date of

deposit as shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation, may petition the Commissioner to accord the correspondence a filing date as of the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation, provided that:

- (1) The petition is filed promptly after the person becomes aware that the Office has accorded, or will accord, a filing date other than the USPS deposit date;
- (2) The number of the "Express Mail" mailing label was placed on the paper(s) or fee(s) that constitute the correspondence prior to the original mailing by "Express Mail;" and
- (3) The petition includes a true copy of the "Express Mail" mailing label showing the "date-in," and of any other official notation by the USPS relied upon to show the date of deposit.

As clearly stated in 37 CFR 1.10(a), the date of deposit with the United States Postal Service (USPS) is shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation. Thus, any petition alleging that the PTO did not accord a paper the date of deposit in Express Mail service as the filing date must be accompanied by "a true copy of the 'Express Mail' mailing label showing the 'date-in,' and of any other official notation by the USPS relied upon to show the date of deposit." 37 CFR 1.10(c)(3).

The present petition is not accompanied by the evidence required by 37 CFR 1.10.

Accordingly, the petition is dismissed.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision should be filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the date of this decision in order to be considered timely (see 37 CFR 1.181(f)) and should be addressed as follows:


By mail: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Box DAC
 Washington, D.C. 20231

By facsimile: (703) 308-6916
 Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Office of Petitions
2201 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza 4, Suite 3C23
Arlington, VA 22202

The application is being returned to Technology Center AU 1722
with the presently accorded filing date of March 13, 2001.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to
Wan Laymon at (703) 306-5685.


Sherry Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy